1702. [*Transferred to 12th September, 1991*]

Export of fruits and vegetables

1703. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the export of fresh vegetables and fresh fruits declined in the year 1990;

(b) if so, the extent thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) the names of the countries importing fresh fruits and vegetables;

(d) the steps being taken to improve their export; and

(e) whether the new steps announced by Government to promote export of these items have contributed to increase in the export and if so, the extent thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Export of fresh fruits and vegetable declined in quantitative terms during 1990.

(b) The export declined by 31 per cent in quantitative terms during 1990 as compared to 1989. The main reasons include Gulf War, failure of mango crop in some parts of the country, increase in freight rates, lack of air cargo space, inadequate infrastructure such as pre-cooling chambers, cold stores, and refrigerated transport system.

(c) Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom, Kuwait, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Doha, Bangladesh, Singapore, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Seychelles.

(d) The steps taken include (i) Creation of infrastructure facilities for faciliting export by sea, (ii) Financial assistance given to set up pre-cooling stations and refrigerated, transport to facilitate export by sea, (iii) Opening up of new markets and promotional activities in the existing markets, (iv) Participation in international trade fairs to exhibit Indian fresh produce, and (v) Trial shipment by sea under refriperated conditions because of shortage of air cargo space.

(e) The new steps announced by the Government to promote export have been welcomed in general. These steps are expected to boost export of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Decline in area under cultivation of oilseeds, cotton etc.

1704. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased ot state:

(a) whether it is a fact that area under cultivation of oilseeds, cotton and coarse grains like barley, maize, jowar, guar etc. is shrinking and per hectare production is declining;

(b) whether it is a fact that Department of Agricultural Research and Education has developed a number of hyorids of maize, barley and cotton and has developed technology to raise the yield in various types of soil;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Reserve Bank of India differ from the Department of Agricultural Research and Education on this point; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Area under cotton and coarse grains has shown declining trends. Rate of growth of area under major edible oilseeds was positive and significant. Per hectare production (productivity) of oilseeds, cotton and coarse cereals have shown significant increase as rates of growth of these crops during 1980-81 to 1989-90 were 3.66, 4.39 and 1.67 per cent per annum respectively.

(b) The Department of Agricultural Research and Education has developed a number of hybrids for cotton and maize and improved high yielding varieties of barley. The production and protection technologies to raise productivity of these crops have been developed for various